

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks. Applicants amend claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-4 and 8-11 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3-4 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brotman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,917,889) (“Brotman et al.”) in view of Denenberg et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,728,348) (“Denenberg et al.”). Applicants amend claim 1 to recite prompting the user to speak the previously-entered alphabetic characters without receiving an additional keypad entry of plural alphabetic characters using a DTMF key tone for each character. Applicants submit that Brotman et al. do not teach or suggest this limitation.

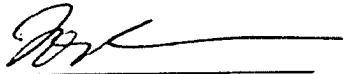
Claim 1 recites a series of steps that start by receiving initial keypad entry input of plural alphabetic characters using a DTMF key tone for each character. Claim 1 later recites prompting the user to speak the previously-entered alphabetic characters without receiving an additional input comprising an additional keypad entry of plural alphabetic characters using a DTMF key tone for each character. In contrast, Brotman et al. explicitly teach in FIG. 2 that if the intended string does not match, the only way to receive user speech in step 640, such as that recited in claim 1, is to receive another DTMF string from the user. The logic flow of FIG. 2 verifies that the only way to progress from step 720 to step 640 is through step 620, where Brotman et al. teach receiving an additional keypad entry of plural alphabetic characters using a DTMF key tone for each character. This teaching is the exact opposite of claim 1. Where Brotman et al. teach receiving another DTMF string from the user and then receiving a user utterance, claim 1 prompts the user to speak the previously-entered alphabetic characters without receiving an

additional keypad entry of plural alphabetic characters using a DTMF key tone for each character. Inasmuch as Brotman et al. do not teach or suggest this limitation, Applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over the cited references and respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Having addressed all rejections and objections, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If necessary, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge or credit the **Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP, Account No. 14-1437** for any deficiency or overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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